

Wayne Mills' murderer won't get new trial, judge rules



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(Photo: Larry McCormack / File / The Tennessean)

Nashville Criminal Court Judge Steve Dozier on Friday dismissed a request for a new trial for the man convicted of murdering country musician Wayne Mills.

A jury convicted Chris Ferrell, 46, of second-degree murder March 6. He shot and killed his friend, Mills, after an argument about smoking in Ferrell's downtown bar, the Pit and Barrel, on Nov. 23, 2013.

Nashville attorney David Raybin defended Ferrell, who testified during trial that he shot Mills in self-defense and because he felt threatened. Raybin argued that the jury instructions misled jurors because they did not include language about self-defense and that Ferrell should get a new trial.

Dozier denied the request. But Raybin said the issue with jury instructions would be the basis for an appeal.

Ferrell was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

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